

other teams in a series of five water utility operations and maintenance events that demonstrate the variety of skills necessary to operate a modern water utility. They are joined today by Team HRSD of the Hampton Roads Sanitation Districts, winners of the competition's Division 2. Team members Kevin Hafner, Jason Hobor, Laura Laxa, and Tim Scott are also talented water quality professionals that provide a vital service to their community. I congratulate Terminal Velocity and Team HRSD for their commitment to high levels of professionalism and their efforts to protect environmental quality and public health.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM GRIFFIN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7, 2014 I missed two votes due to a family funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 165, the Motion to Recommit and "aye" on rollcall vote 166, the passage of H.R. 1872, the Budget and Accounting Transparency Act.

TRIBUTE TO THE BAKERSFIELD CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL EAGLES FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Bakersfield Christian High School Eagles football team, who courageously fought their way to its first California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division IV State Football Championship Bowl Game this past December.

The Eagles utilized an exceptional team effort to get through their daunting season, finishing out with a record of 12 wins and 3 losses. Over the span of the 2013 season, Bakersfield Christian set an astonishing 37 new school records. But lost in this success was the adversity they faced in the beginning of the season. The Eagles started their regular season off with two tough consecutive losses, one of them being to their biggest rival. After their second loss, Coach Jerald Pierucci sat down with his small senior class and challenged them to provide the leadership the team needed to succeed. This proved to be a critical moment for the team, the figurative fork

in the road that would define their season. The path they chose speaks volumes to the team's character as a whole. In the following games, the seniors truly embodied what it meant to be leaders, and the team rallied together as one unit, going undefeated all the way to the State Championship.

When asked to define his team, Coach Pierucci without hesitation replied with one word: selfless. He elaborated that the team was just as rich in role players as it was in playmakers. There was a solid foundation of players each of whom did their job on every play—contributing to the success of their team. These were young men who personified the mantra of "team first" and never gave up in the face of adversity. Even when behind 20–0 in the Valley Championship game against a heavily-favored undefeated rival on a cold December evening, they kept working together and ultimately prevailed. This winning attitude and fierce determination displayed by the Eagles this season proved they earned the right to represent Southern California in the State Championship game.

I join our community in congratulating the coaches and players for their achievement. The 2013 Bakersfield Christian High School Eagles coaching staff includes: Head Coach Jerald Pierucci, Vince Aguilar, Roger Patterson, Tyler Hough, Mike Rodriguez, Sean Lozano, Rick Sotile, Nathan Munson, Larry Whitbey, Tom McCormack, and Ryan Clanton. The 2013 BCHS Eagles football team includes: Keith Blank, Donald Harris, Brad Western, Josh Jackson, Brandon Jones, Nathan DeJager, Tyler Lozano, Feike DeBoer, Kyle Pickinpaugh, Hayden Kuchta, Brock Duffield, John Fulce, Austin Duffield, Kobe Devries, Zach Balfanz, Matt Smith, Fernando Solis, Jordan Smith, Cameron Reeves, Devin Crabtree, Jonathan Loman, Steven Figures, Cole Wymore, Grant Bouma, Hayden Mazone, Chad Wielenga, John Martineau, Tyler Sweaney, Josh Mantle, West Williams, Brett Schuler, Lane Perey, Haiden Drake, Cole Kashwer, Ben Wind, DeAngelo Bragg, Noah Sheetz, Daniel Negron, Jacob Lanuza, Anthony Rodriguez, Jacob Mullins, Titus Goodman, Jack Chance, Carson Balfanz, Morgan Farmer, Brandt Oliver, Taeber Nylander, and William Crockett. You all have made our community proud! Go Eagles!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took of-

fice, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,559,603,867,896.49. We've added \$6,932,726,818,983.41 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.9 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 1459

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 1459, which would create arbitrary new rules to make it more difficult for presidents to protect our national heritage and resources through the Antiquities Act.

The Antiquities Act is a century-old tool that gives the president the ability to set aside already-public land for protection as a National Monument. Nearly every president since 1906, both Republican and Democratic, has used this authority to designate some of our nation's most iconic treasures, from the Grand Canyon to Acadia National Park. In my own Congressional district, President Eisenhower used the Antiquities Act to designate the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, the first step in a process to preserve what is now a thriving national park with a scenic towpath that showcases the rich history and natural beauty of the site.

Antiquities Act designations are good for surrounding communities, preserving natural resources, providing outdoor recreation opportunities, and boosting tourism. Moreover, the Antiquities Act complements, rather than overrides, Congressional action, as Congress retains the ability to declare monuments and manage resources for presidentially-proclaimed monuments.

Today's bill places arbitrary limits on designations and needlessly complicates the process, making it far more difficult to achieve permanent designations of heritage spaces. In the last three years, Congress has failed to create even one new unit of the National Park System. We should not prohibit the president from taking action to conserve public land and protect public resources. I urge a no vote.